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# Sam Dale Lake

CONSERVATION AREA

# CONSERVATION

## THE AREA

Sam Dale Lake Conservation Area, 1½ miles northwest of Johnsonville in Wayne County, is a multi-use recreational area with a lake. The site is named after Sam O. Dale, a state representative for eight terms in the Illinois General Assembly from the 56th district. Mr. Dale was active in public schools as a teacher, principal and Hamilton County Superintendent.

The initial land acquisition of 40 acres was made in 1959 by the State of Illinois. The total acreage is now 1,301. A satellite area at Fairfield, the Sam & Florence Atkinson State Forest with a total of 121.92 acres, was acquired in 1983.

## THE LAKE

The dominant feature of the site is the lake. Sam Dale Lake covers 194 acres, has a maximum depth of 18 feet and has a shoreline of 8½ miles. The shape of the lake is long and narrow with many curves and fingers.

## NATURAL SCENE

The area is generally rolling, with some small, nearly flat fields. The hunting area is open fields and brushy weedy fields interspersed by evergreen plantings and fencerows. The timber areas are mostly small second-growth with one large tract of 23 acres of mostly mature timber. There are several small ponds on the area that have water year round.

Most of the trees, flowers and plants common to this section of Illinois are found here. Wildlife includes quail, rabbit, dove, squirrel, deer, fox, raccoon, owl, hawk and woodcock.

## FACILITIES

**Picnicking —** There are several picnic areas with tables, handicapped drinking fountains, tables and outdoor stoves. Playground equipment is nearby. A concession stand has sandwiches, cold drinks and fishing bait available.

**Camping —** There are two class B campgrounds with electricity and a sanitary dump station, also a tent and a group camping area. Permits obtained from site staff are required for all areas. All groups of over 25 persons need advance permission to enter campground.

**Nature Trail —** There is a 3.2 mile trail with three loops that wind through wooded areas and along the lake in places (see map).

**Swimming —** is permitted at designated area only (see map).

**Fishing and Boating —** The lake contains largemouth bass, bluegill, redear, crappie and channel catfish. A small

pond stocked with trout each year also is available for fishing. There are two launching ramps, boat docks, several floating fishing docks and rental boats available. The motor limit is 10 horsepower.

**Winter Sports —** Ice fishing is permitted when the weather conditions are favorable.

## HUNTING REGULATIONS

1. Hunting is restricted to those areas posted as open to hunting. Restricted areas are enclosed by white signs with red letters.

2. A check station is present on the area (see map). All hunters, except deer and squirrel hunters, must check in and leave their hunting license or FOID card until the completion of their hunt. All hunters, except deer and squirrel hunters, will wear a back patch, secured at the check station, on their coat or hat while hunting on this area.

3. All hunters, including deer and squirrel hunters, are to check out and report their day's hunt.

4. All hunting is to be with shotgun and bow and arrows only. No rifles or pistols are permitted while hunting on this area. Deer hunting is with bow and arrow only.

Check with the site superintendent for game species and hunting times and dates. Approximately 930 acres are available for hunting.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Admittance will not be granted groups of 25 or more persons to any state park or conservation area unless permission from the park ranger has been secured to use the facilities. It is also required that groups of minors have adequate supervision and that at least one responsible adult accompany each group not exceeding 15 minors. All pets must be on a leash.

Numerous state parks and recreation areas are within easy access of every part of the state. Lodges, cabins and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette, White Pines Forest, Giant City and Cave-In-Rock. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

All state parks are open year-round. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of park roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to park facilities is by foot only.

For more details about this site, contact Superintendent, R.R. 1, Johnsonville, IL 62850, phone (618) 835-2292. For information on other Illinois sites, write the Department of Conservation, 524 South Second St., Springfield, IL 62706.

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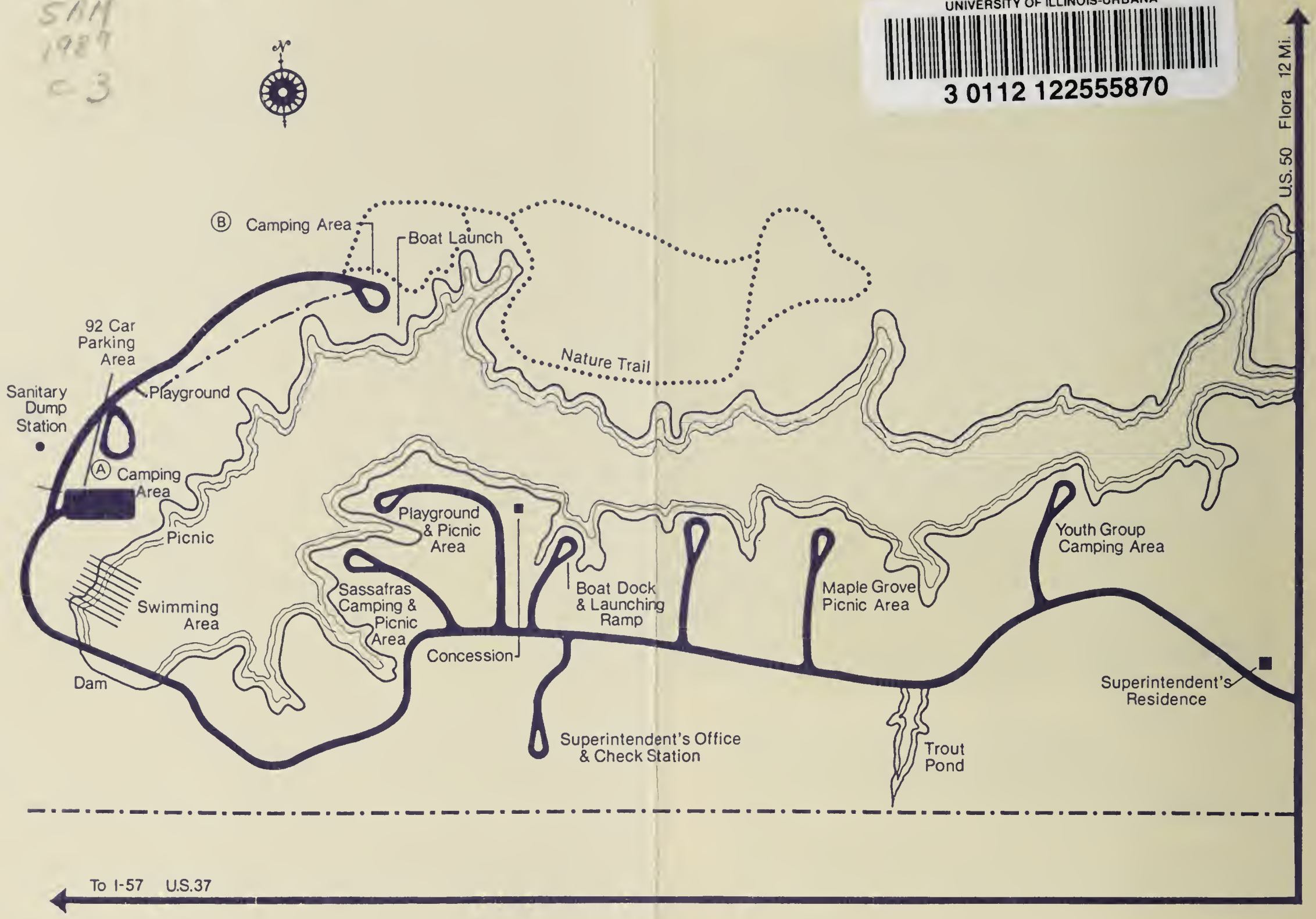


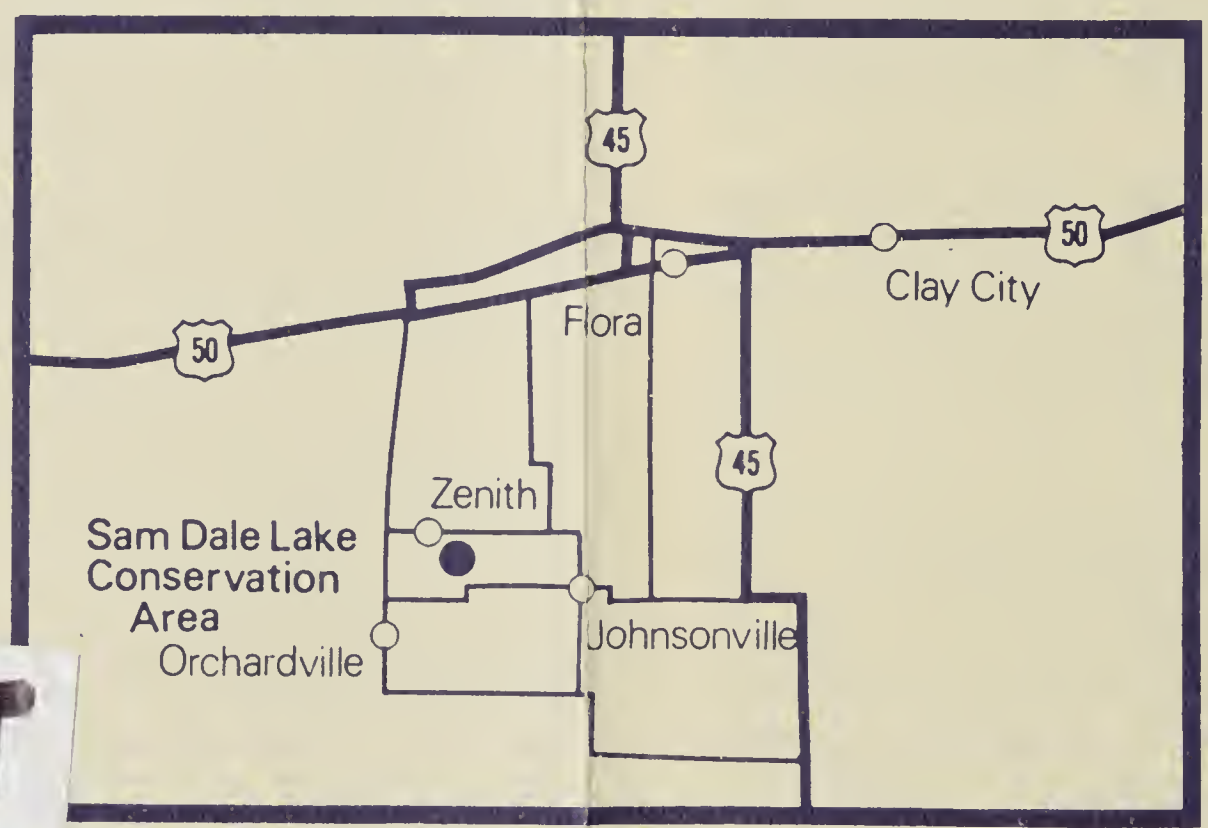


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